

Appl. No. ~~10/758,066~~
 Docket No. 9160Q
 Amdt. dated September 13, 2006
 Reply to Office Action mailed on August 18, 2006
 Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, lines 1 – 12, with the following amended paragraph:

In one preferred embodiment of the present invention the nanoparticles comprise a synthetic hectorite which can be a lithium magnesium silicate. One such suitable lithium magnesium silicate is LAPONITE[[®]], which has the formula:



wherein $w = 3$ to 6 , $x = 0$ to 3 , $y = 0$ to 4 , $z = 12 - 2w - x$, and the overall negative lattice charge is balanced by counter-ions; and wherein the counter-ions are selected from the group consisting of selected Na^+ , K^+ , NH_4^+ , Cs^+ , Li^+ , Mg^{++} , Ca^{++} , Ba^{++} , $N(CH_3)_4^+$ and mixtures thereof. (If the LAPONITE[[®]] is "modified" with a cationic organic compound, then the "counter-ion" could be viewed as being any cationic organic group (R).) Other suitable synthetic hectorites include, but are not limited to isomorphous substitutions of LAPONITE[[®]], such as, LAPONITE B[[™]], LAPONITE S[[™]], LAPONITE XLS[[™]], LAPONITE RD[[™]], LAPONITE XLG[[™]], and LAPONITE RDS[[™]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, lines 15 – 25, with the following amended paragraph:

Hydrophilicity boosting compositions, according to the present invention, are prepared as follows:

Component	% Wt of Component												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Nanoparticle ¹	0.1	0.05	0.05					0.1	1				
Nanoparticle ²				0.1	0.05	0.05	0.1						
Nanoparticle ³										1	1	4	
Nanoparticle ⁴													1
Surfactant ⁵	0.075	0.075		0.075	0.075						0.075	0.075	

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Surfactant ^o			0.025			0.025							
Water	--quantity sufficient to 100%--												

1. LAPONITE B[[TM]] is sodium magnesium lithium fluorosilicate from Southern Clay Products, Inc.
2. LAPONITE RD[[TM]] is sodium magnesium lithium silicate from Southern Clay Products, Inc.
3. Disperal 14N4-25 is a boehmite alumina nanoparticle available from North American Sasol, Inc
4. ZSM5 is a nanosized zeolite with a particle size from 70 to about 400 nm.
5. ~~Needle~~ NEODOL 91-6
6. ~~Silwet~~ SILWET L-77

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 27 – page 20, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Liquid Strike-Through Test - The liquid strike-through time is measured using Lister-type strike-through equipment, manufactured by Lenzing AG, Austria. Test procedure is based on standardized EDANA (European Disposables And Nonwovens Association) method 150.3-96, with the test sample placed on an absorbent pad comprised of ten plies of filter paper (~~Ahlstrom~~ AHLSTROM Grade 632 obtained from Empirical Manufacturing Co., Inc., or equivalent). In a typical experiment, three consecutive 5ml gushes of test liquid (0.9% saline solution) are applied to a nonwoven sample at one minute intervals and the respective strike-through times are recorded without changing the absorbent pad.